

SITUATION REPORT NO. 63
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: September 5, 1997 TIME: 9:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay was 1442.73 feet MSL on September 4, 1997. The elevation of the Missouri River at Williston continued above flood stage with a reading of 21.40 feet on September 4. The elevation of the river at Bismarck on September 4 remained steady at 12.61 feet.

The Labor Day weekend brought severe weather to portions of North Dakota. A summary of significant storm damages reported to the Division follows:

Kidder County: -More than 6 inches of rain was reported in the Steele area, along with up to golfball size hail. Several homes in Steele had windows broken by the hail. Numerous grain crops have sustained hail damage. One vehicle operator had to be rescued by the local fire department and ambulance squad when his vehicle began to float after it was driven through water 15 inches deep.

Stutsmann County: There was a derailment of approximately 33 empty coal rail cars blown over by strong winds. No hazardous materials were involved. At Eldridge, a barn was blown down and into a home. No injuries were sustained. One school in Jamestown was closed Tuesday due to hail damage to the school's skylights. There was significant hail damage in Jamestown, especially in the northern half of the town, where hail up to softball size fell.

Barnes County: Three to four inches occurred in the northern part of the county. Valley City experienced street flooding. There was a report of a tornado between the Litchville and Hastings area, with no damages noted.

Dickey County: One and one-half inches of rain fell from the storms. There were reports of light hail, but no damages occurred. Winds on the leading edge of the system were estimated at 40 to 45 mph.

LaMoure County: Three inches of rain fell in LaMoure.

RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: North Dakota has been approved to receive a \$3.7 million dollar crisis

counseling grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant will be administered by the North Dakota Department of Human Services throughout all 53 counties. Crisis counseling assistance will be provided to those dealing with the adversities of the spring flood. One hundred-eleven temporary employees working out of eight Human Services Centers will provide services. It is expected that there may be an increase in the need for these services in the farm and ranch community and also for parents and school children that are not ready to face the school year.

Of the 36,494 North Dakotans who reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC), 24,000 eligible applicants have received more than \$51.5 million in Disaster Housing assistance.

Disaster victims in Grand Forks continue to move from FEMA travel trailers to either permanent housing or to FEMA mobile homes. As of September 4, 1997, 321 families remained in travel trailers. There are now 248 requests for mobile homes. There are a total of 306 manufactured homes sited in the state. Two hundred eleven of these are currently leased and occupied.

The Individual and Family Grant Program (IFG), administered by the Division of Emergency Management, has approved more than \$12.3 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFGP grant is \$1,320. The number of applications approved as of September 3 is 9,333. There are 2,264 applications pending.

As of September 4, 1997, Job Service North Dakota had paid out over \$4.4 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) claims. They have received a total of 8,292 DUA applications.

To date, the Public Assistance staff has prepared Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) for the 1997 flood for nearly \$79.4 million of infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal in the declared counties.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved to date more than \$164 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has closed 4,777 applications, with 2,500 cases still in the process.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>
N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/index.html>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director